REMARKS

The Amendments

Applicants have amended the specification to correct an obvious typographical error at page 1, line 26. The other four changes to the specification, on pages 6 and 7, delete the phrase "Fig. 1" and insert "the sole figure" (page 6) or "the figure" (page 7). These changes merely delete identification of the sole drawing figure as 'Fig. 1,' and refer to that drawing figure in the specification as amended. These amendments are supported by the fact that there is only one drawing. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the specification add no new matter to the application and earnestly solicit entry thereof.

Applicants have amended the claims by cancelling claim 1, which is directed to nonelected subject matter. Applicants have amended the sole drawing figure to remove the objectionable label 'Fig. 1' therefrom. Applicants respectfully submit that neither amendment adds new matter to the application and earnestly solicit entry of both amendments.

Applicants have amended the Abstract to remove the word 'means,' as required by the Examiner. The amendment is supported throughout the specification and drawing, and adds no new matter to the application. Applicants earnestly solicit entry of this amendment.

The Office Action

Claims 1 and 2 were pending. Claim 2 is allowed.

Claim 1 was withdrawn from further consideration as drawn to non-elected subject matter.

The drawing was objected to because, although it is the sole drawing, it was labeled 'Fig. 1.'

The abstract was objected to because the word 'means' was used therein.

Application No. 09/876,953 Client/Matter No. 1458.00045

The specification was objected to because of references to 'Fig. 1' rather than to 'the figure,' in view of the fact that there is but one drawing figure in the application.

Remarks

The application has been amended to put it into unambiguous condition for allowance.

Each of the formal objections has been addressed in the manner suggested in the office action.

The sole remaining claim has been allowed. Early favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Date: May 3, 2004

By:

William J. Fisher Registration No. 32,133

William J. Fisher

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd. 1001 G Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001-4597 (202) 824-3000

WJF/bao

699196_1



U.S. Serial No.: 09/876,953 Atty. Dkt. No.: 1458.00045
Inventor: Taneaki Yahata, et al.

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONVERTING BOTH HALOGENS IN ORGANIC HALIDES AND ORGANIC COMPOUNDS TO INORGANIC SUBSTANCES Annotated Sheet

